

1. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of December 12, 2011:

- The City Council will be in lobbying training from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday, December 12. The public City Council meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.
- Recreation Committee meeting, Monday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room
- Tree Commission meeting, Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. in the Lilac Room
- Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise. Contact JessieC@takomagov.org to check for cancellations or for additional information. *(City Clerk)*

2. Winter Basketball League – Registration Closes at Midnight on December 9:

Many divisions have already been filled and are closed due to capacity. However, the following divisions still have a few spaces left: 5th & 6th grade girls (5 spaces left) and 7th & 8th grade (9 spaces left). To register online, please visit: www.activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation. For additional information, please contact Lew McAllister at (301) 891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. *(Recreation)*

3. Annual Holiday Art Sale Tomorrow: The City's sixth annual art sale is a great place to find something unique for yourself or someone on your gift list. One of a kind jewelry, pottery, photography, wearable art, glasswork, and more will be available for sale. Whatever your holiday gift needs, you will be sure to find it at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, on Saturday, December 10. Sale opens at 10 am and will run until 4:00 pm. There will be arts activities for the kids while you investigate the offerings of over 30 artists. Music provided by the Takoma Park Singers and Katie McCreary. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. Caldecott Club: Come join us on Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. for the Caldecott Club. We'll look at a few more possibilities and then vote on our choice for the winner of the 2012 Caldecott Medal, which will be announced on January 23. In late January or early February, we'll meet once more to read and discuss the actual winner. All are welcome at this program that is perfect for families and grown-ups who love children's picture books. Don't worry if you've missed the first two meetings – we'll catch you up! *(Library)*

5. Tuesday! December 13 - New Ave Streetscape Standards Workshop!:

From 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Help designers build identity into the New Ave and our community's front door through the creation of standards for future sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, stormwater and furniture. Provide input online and learn more: www.thenewave.com/development/projects/streetscape-standards. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. Third Thursday Poetry Reading - December 15: This monthly poetry reading features published poet Donald Illich; Carlee Hallman, a retired United Methodist minister, who has had her poetry printed in Scribble and Black Buzzard Review; published poet Pamela Winters who grew up on Maple Avenue; and Jon Barrows, also published, who recently organized over 100 local area poets to participate in National Poetry Writing Month poem-a-day. Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Holiday Concert (from a Nautical Perspective) - December 17: We are Takoma presents Bob Zentz and Calico Jack next Saturday for an evening of mirth and music-filled celebration of the things that illuminate our lives. Hear original and traditional songs that come from the Atlantic maritime tradition. Expect everything from squeezeboxes, guitars, banjo, banjola and hurdy-gurdy, to spoons and jaw harp. Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Free admission, donations welcome. (*Housing and Community Development*)

8. Special Holiday Events: Mark your calendars for next Saturday, December 17, for a day of holiday programs. First, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Friends of the Library will hold a special children's book sale in the Community Center rotunda, just outside the Computer Center. We'll have lots of kids' books at bargain prices, including brand-new review copies and 10 copies of the hottest book in America, "Cabin Fever," signed by the author, Jeff Kinney. Come buy some great books and support the Library at the same time; all proceeds go to support our programs. At 11:15 a.m., the same day, we'll have our third annual Holiday Sing-a-long, singing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa with local musician Wendy Lanxner and her music students. Finally, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., kids are welcome to come and make holiday gifts. Registration is required for the gift-making program so we can have enough materials for all. To register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259. (*Library*)

8. French Circle Time: Madame Marie will lead our monthly French Circle Time on Saturday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome at this program that is perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups. And, yes, this is the same day as our other holiday programs, including the children's book sale, so come prepared for more fun! (*Library*)

9. Are You Affected by the Washington Adventist Hospital Move?: Washington Adventist Hospital (WAH) is requesting permission to move from its Takoma Park location to the White Oak/Fairland area of Montgomery County. The Maryland Health Care Commission may approve, approve with conditions, or deny WAH's request. The Commission's hearing on WAH's request has closed and the

Hearing Officer is expected to announce his recommendation in early 2012. Once announced, the Takoma Park City Council will have 30 days to comment on the recommendation. The window of opportunity to respond is limited and does not allow much time for the Takoma Park City Council to receive input from the community. To ensure that your voice is heard, please take a moment to complete the following questionnaire:

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WAH-LUC>

Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WAH-futuro>

Additional information can be found online at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/wah/>
(*Housing and Community Development*)

10. Pure Muscle Classes: Pure Muscle classes are offered on Thursdays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. The time of the class is 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. This class is focused on building strength and toning muscles in the arms, abs and legs. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7289. (*Recreation*)

11. Chess Classes: Takoma Park Recreation Center offers a chess program for youth ages 6-17 on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This program provides the first steps in familiarizing yourself with the board, identifying the chessmen, and learning chess terminology. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7289. (*Recreation*)

12. Indoor Soccer/Futsal League – Teams are Now Being Formed: The Takoma Park Recreation Department is now offering an 8 week Indoor Soccer/Futsal league. This new program is designed to promote indoor soccer play through sportsmanship, teamwork and fun!! The League is open to all girls and boys in grades 2-4. All participants will be assigned to teams and provided team shirts for league play. All games are played on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and are held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). To register online, please visit: www.activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation. For additional information, please contact Lew McAllister at (301) 891-7284 or LewM@takomagov.org. (*Recreation*)

13. Winter Basketball League - Coaches Clinic Recap: With the help of Gary Weinstein, a Takoma Park “Legend” and Frank Simpson, Head Basketball Coach/Athletic Director at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, the Recreation Department hosted a successful basketball clinic. The two coaches spoke on the importance of teaching youth the game of basketball while having fun! They went over tips and tricks to make practices easy and worry free. There were two “hands on” sessions which allowed the coaches to play the role as players and coaches. All coaches walked away with handbooks and articles to help them become a better coach. The Recreation Department would like to give a special thanks to Coach G and Coach Simpson for all of their help! (*Recreation*)

14. **Adult Volleyball (Coed) – Begins in January:** Open courts for volleyball will be available for adult "drop in" play from 8:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). This new program is open to men and women ages 18 and over. Individuals of all skill levels are welcome to participate. All games are self-officiated. Program is free with membership or \$5 per person for a drop-in fee. Program runs each Monday starting January 9, 2012. For additional information, please contact LewM@takomagov.org or (301) 891-7284. *(Recreation)*

15. **Tai Chi Workshop for Seniors:** On Monday, December 5, volunteer instructor Kirk Talbott introduced eighteen Takoma Park seniors to the ancient Chinese gentle movement martial art of t'ai-chi ch'uan. The workshop used relaxation, posture, and breathing through the slow, integrated exercises of the traditional Yang-style short form. An eight-week class is planned for seniors beginning in January 2012. For more information, please contact Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager, at 301-891-7280, or PaulaL@takomagov.org. *(Recreation)*

16. **New Program for Seniors:** Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager, met with Program Coordinator, Kim Crilly, of Holy Cross Hospital, for a program planning meeting. Beginning in February 2012, Ms. Crilly, will bring a new six-week "Living Well" program from Holy Cross Hospital (a new seniors program partnership), to the Takoma Park Community Center. More information about this wonderful new program for Takoma Park seniors is coming soon. *(Recreation)*

17. **Seniors Holiday Party:** The Silver Foxes annual Holiday Potluck Party was held on Friday, December 9 in the Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center. Thirty-five seniors brought homemade goodies to share with their friends. Senior program volunteers were honored. Everyone enjoyed lots of good eats and holiday cheer! *(Recreation)*

18. **Housing Code Enforcement Training:** Code Enforcement staff attended the Code Enforcement and Zoning Official Association (CEZOA) fall training and business meeting on December 8, hosted by the Town of Ocean City. The training topic was Rental Inspections and Non-Conforming Uses presented by Kevin Brown, Chief Building Official of Ocean City. CEZOA is a branch of the Maryland Municipal League. *(Housing and Community Development)*

19. **Takoma/Langley Sector Plan Design Guidelines Presentation by the Planning Board Staff - January 12:** Thursday, January 12 from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. In response to the City's resolution, Montgomery County Planning staff has been revising its draft of the design guidelines and will be presenting it to the community for discussion. See: www.thenewwave.com/development/visions-and-plans/crossroads-urban-design-guidelines for background information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

20. Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Discussion - January 18: Your assistance is needed in creating a concept plan for a streetscape section where New Hampshire Avenue meets Ethan Allen Avenue / East-West Highway. Visit the project page to learn more about the project online and save the date for a public meeting on January 18, 2012. For more information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or: www.thenewave.com/development/projects/eag. (*Housing and Community Development*)

21. Gardening Grants!: Thought about greening the New Ave? Funding is available for community gardening and greening projects on public or institutional properties along the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. There is funding for capital improvements, trees, bushes and perennials, and information sheets on resources and how to organize your own community garden association. Several gardens have been started with great success; however, there are many other spaces that can use some beautifying - whether planting and caring for a small tree or developing a full garden. The deadline for submitting applications for funding is January 31, 2012. Applications are available at www.thenewave.com/_files/docs/application-community-gardens.pdf. For more information, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or ErkinO@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)

22. Bike to Work Day on the New Ave: Takoma Park will join the Bike to Work Day network in Spring 2012 with the addition of at least one pit stop on the New Ave. This regional event is held annually to raise awareness for cycling to work as a viable commuting alternative. Since its inception, participation has grown to over 10,000 registrants! If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or sponsor, contact Erkin Ozberk at 301-891-7213 or ErkinO@takomagov.org. Bike to Work Day will be held on May 18, 2012. For more info, see: www.mwcog.org/commuter2/commuter/bicycling/biketoworkday.html. (*Housing and Community Development*)

23. K6 Bus Study: The City sent a letter to the General Manager of WMATA requesting that high priority be placed on implementing the recommendations of the Priority Bus Corridor Study. The K6 bus study was completed in May 2011, but improvements have yet to be implemented. Recommendations based on identified needs included additional training for drivers, oversight to prevent buses from "bunching" and service gaps, more frequent buses (from 30 minutes to 20 during off peak hours), and the establishment of express bus service. (*Housing and Community Development*)

24. Questionnaire on Bikeshare Successful: The City provided over 400 responses to Montgomery County in order to assist them in their effort to expand Capital Bikeshare to Takoma Park. In general respondents supported the initiative. The most popular site for locating a station was Takoma Junction. Nearly 50 percent of respondents would consider using Bikeshare as part of their commute to work.

Thanks to everyone who participated! *(Housing and Community Development)*

25. New Ave Social: City staff met with residents and area organizations for a fruitful New Ave discussion at La Cuscaleta. The evening was part of an ongoing series of informal gatherings to discuss the New Ave initiative, network, and identify additional opportunities for redevelopment and revitalization on the New Hampshire Avenue. The next event will be in the Maryland Gateway. *(Housing and Community Development)*

26. Expand your Audience - Post New Ave Events on the New Ave Website!: Remember, if you have a public event on the New Ave, it is easy to post it on the website www.theNewAve.com. Access the form from the contact link at the bottom of any page. Once submitted, staff receives a notification to review and approve the event for publication on the website. You may include pictures and generate a map for the event location. *(Housing and Community Development)*

27. Friends Big Book Group: The Friends of the Library's "Big Book" group will meet on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center's Lilac Room for the concluding discussion of "Daniel Martin" by John Fowles. All are welcome. *(Library)*

28. Friends Board Meeting: The Friends of the Library will hold a board meeting on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:45 p.m. in the Library. *(Library)*

29. Seniors Visit Historic House: On Thursday, December 8, twelve seniors traveled by Recreation Bus to visit the Annual Gingerbread House Show held in the historic Darnall's Chance House Museum. After visiting the special Gingerbread House exhibit, seniors took a tour through the historic museum house in Upper Marlboro. Everyone enjoyed this festive seasonal adventure. *(Recreation)*

30. The Chief's Lecture: On December 8, Chief Ricucci lectured at the Citizen's Police Academy on Media Relations. *(Police)*

31. Officers in Training: On December 7, 2011, various sworn officers attended in-service training in the Takoma Park Auditorium. *(Police)*

32. Community Outreach Officer (Pfc. Carla Magnaye):

- On December 7, in-service training was conducted. Officer Magnaye also conducted a senior citizen safety workshop on internet safety and created a general presentation for personal safety and security geared towards the senior citizen audience for the upcoming presentations.
- On December 8, Officer Magnaye conducted two residential security surveys and hosted one of several citizen's police academy classes; the topic was the Capital One Bank Robbery and Media Relations. *(Police)*

33. **Crime Report:** The most recent Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report (December 2-8, 2011) has been sent out on the listserve. However, the City is experiencing technical difficulties with the police blotter, which affects postings to Facebook and Twitter, and therefore there is no link this week. *(Police)*

34. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 263 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, three vehicle impounds, two Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests, and 10 arrests from traffic.

During November 19 – December 2, 2011, the following details were completed:

December 2, 2011

- Maple Avenue & Lincoln Avenue (stop sign enforcement) – conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Maple Avenue & Ritchie Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued six State citations and one warning.

December 5, 2011

- New Hampshire Avenue & Holton Lane (no left turn/no u-turn) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued three warnings.
- Erskine Street at 13th Place (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations.
- Takoma-Langley Crossroads area (tag reader/suspensions) – conducted a detail at various times and issued 10 State citations.

December 6, 2011

- Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue (no right turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued one State citation and two warnings.

December 8, 2011

- 7500 block of Maple Avenue (school zone enforcement) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued six State citations and five warnings.
- 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue (equipment violations) - conducted a five and a half hour detail and issued 12 State citations and six warnings.
- 7500 block of Maple Avenue (school zone enforcement) - conducted a three hour detail and issued 10 State citations and three warnings.
- 7500 block of Maple Avenue (school zone enforcement) - conducted a three hour detail and issued 11 State citations and one warning.

(Police)

35. **Traffic Officer Stats (Cpl. Michelle Holmes)** *Week of 12/2/11 – 12/8/11:*

State Citations issued: 41

Warnings issued: 3

Reports: 6

Safety Equipment Repair Orders: 5

Warrant service: 1

Training: 10.5 hours

Court: 4.5 hours

(Police)